



# expressions

FOURTH QUARTER 2020

LVECU Lobbies Now Open by Appointment Only

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Summer Reading Program & More

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## LVECU Lobbies Now Open by Appointment Only

We are pleased to announce that we reopened our branch lobbies **Monday, October 5, by appointment only.**

This is an exciting first step in welcoming you back safely. Please know that some things have changed, at least temporarily, to keep you and our employees as safe as possible. Here is what you can expect:

- As mentioned above, you will need to call and make an appointment to visit a branch office. Call us at 610-820-0145, ext. 501.
- Masks and social distancing are required.
- We must limit the number of people in our branches at one time. Please only bring with you the people who are necessary to complete the business you are conducting.
- Teller transactions such as deposits, withdrawals and transfers will continue to be drive-through only until further notice.

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we slowly and safely welcome you back in person. We cannot wait to see you! 🍷



## Your LVECU Debit Card Just Got Better



You now have more control over spending and fraudulent activity on your LVECU debit card. CardValet® is a new, FREE service that lets you:

- Turn your debit card off temporarily instead of reporting it lost or stolen
- Guard against fraud by turning it off when not in use
- Control spending of family members who have access to your card via online retailers

**You can do all of this and more from an app on your mobile device. Look for more information on CardValet and find links to download the app on our website and Facebook page.**

3720 Hamilton Boulevard  
Allentown, PA 18103-4503  
Phone: 610-820-0145  
Toll Free: 1-800-800-2311  
Fax: 610-435-5250



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# Contact Us

## Main Office

3720 Hamilton Boulevard  
Allentown, PA 18103-4503  
610-820-0145  
Toll Free: 1-800-800-2311  
Fax: 610-435-5250

## Schnecksville Branch

4031 Independence Drive  
Schnecksville, PA 18078-0399  
610-820-0145  
Fax: 610-799-2109

## Temporary Hours

Monday 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
Tuesday 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
Wednesday 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
Thursday 9:00 am-6:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
Saturday *Closed during COVID-19*

ART (Audio Response Teller): 610-820-0292  
Toll Free: 1-888-278-3100

## Visa Credit Card

**Account Information:**  
1-800-433-0505 or [www.EZCardinfo.com](http://www.EZCardinfo.com)

**Report Lost/Stolen Card:**  
During regular LVECU business hours –  
610-820-0145, ext. 503  
Toll Free: 1-800-433-0505  
(M-F 8:00 am-10:00 pm)

After regular business hours  
1-833-311-0082

## Visa Check Card/ATM Card

**Report Lost/Stolen Card:**  
During regular LVECU business hours –  
610-820-0145, Toll Free: 1-800-800-2311

After regular business hours –  
ART: 610-820-0292  
1-800-554-8969

## Website

[www.lvecu.org](http://www.lvecu.org)

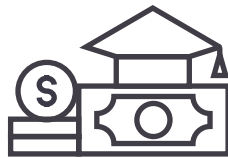
## Board Members

William Ayers, *President*  
Gary Fedorcha, *Vice President*  
Eugenia Emert, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
Daniel Y. Joseph      Gary E. Phillips  
Sherri Molitoris      Ryan VanNorman  
Dennis Nemes      Daniel Weaver

## Summer Reading Program & More

Our Summer Reading Program was a huge success once again. We had 99 Kirby and CYY members participate in the program this year by reading 109,016 pages and 522 books. Great work by all our young members!

Also, congratulations to credit union member Teighan Boyle, our third quarter Claim Your Youth drawing winner. Teighan received a \$100 deposit. If you're age 13-17, stop by the credit union to enter. 🍀



## 2021 Scholarships

LVECU will be awarding ten \$1,000 scholarships to members who will be full-time undergraduate students during the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Applications will be available November 1, 2020, on our website. 🍀

## A Lifeline of Cash When You Need It Most

As interest rates continue falling and home prices continue rising, a home equity loan can be a great source of extra cash. Borrow on the equity in your home for just about anything!

### Debt consolidation

Credit card bills and other debt can eat away at your monthly budget. Pay them off with funds from a home equity loan. You'll be left with one much lower monthly payment and a lot less stress.

### Home repairs/improvements

Making improvements is usually cheaper than buying a new home, but that still comes with a price. Whether you need a foundation repair, a new roof or something less complex, tapping into your equity is a great way to pay for it.

### Large purchases

With such low rates, paying for big-ticket items like a vacation, a wedding, surgery, an emergency fund or anything else is affordable with a home equity loan.

Make an appointment to see if a home equity loan or line of credit is the right solution for you. Call us at 610-820-0145.

**For more information, visit [lvecu.org/home-loans](http://lvecu.org/home-loans).** 🍀

## Your Chance to

### Board of Directors Election 2021

Election for the 2021 Board of Directors is coming soon. Make sure you vote for the credit union leaders

who will work for you. If you're interested in contributing your time and talent and are a member in good standing, submit your letter of introduction (100 words or less) to: Nomination Committee, c/o LVECU, 3720 Hamilton Blvd., Allentown, PA 18103. The deadline for receiving nominations is November 30, 2020. Ballots and biographies will be mailed (if necessary) to all members ages 18 and over after the close of nominations.

By resolution of the Board of Directors, incumbent directors will be automatically re-nominated, provided they wish to run. The Nominating Committee may nominate one additional person for each position. Anyone not nominated by the committee may have their name added to the ballot by submitting a nominating petition with the signatures of 25 LVECU members. Petitions are available upon request. Nominees must be members in good standing as defined by the credit union bylaws. 🍀



# If You Have Federal Student Loans, Read This

By Ari Lazarus | Consumer Education Specialist, FTC



A few months ago, we told you that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act gave some flexibility to federal student loan borrowers. Understanding these options can help you make more informed decisions about paying your bills and prioritizing your debts. The benefits have been extended until December 31, 2020.

## So, just to recap, what does the CARES Act mean for you if you have a federal student loan?

1

The CARES Act gives temporary payment relief to borrowers with qualifying federal student loans. But some federal student loans don't qualify – for example, older Family Federal Education Loans (FFEL) and Perkins Loans that are owned by the school you attended. Contact your federal loan servicer online or by phone to find out if your loans are eligible.

2

If your federal loans are covered, the U.S. Department of Education has automatically placed your loans into what's called "administrative forbearance." That means you can stop making payments on those loans right away, up through December 31, 2020. If your payments automatically come out of your bank account, check if any payments have been processed since March 13, 2020. If they have, you may be able to get a refund as part of administrative forbearance.

3

If you want to keep making payments on your qualifying federal student loan through December 31, the interest rate is now 0%. So any payments you make during the forbearance period may help you pay off your debt faster. If you're on an income-based repayment program and/or a forgiveness program, you should check out Federal Student Aid's Coronavirus page to see which option makes sense for you.

Read more at [consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/09/if-you-have-federal-student-loans-read](https://consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/09/if-you-have-federal-student-loans-read). 📄

# IRS Unveils "Dirty Dozen" List of Tax Scams for 2020

Americans are urged to be vigilant to these threats during the pandemic and its aftermath.

IR-2020-160, July 16, 2020

The Internal Revenue Service today announced its annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams with a special emphasis on aggressive and evolving schemes related to coronavirus tax relief, including Economic Impact Payments.

This year, the Dirty Dozen focuses on scams that target taxpayers. The criminals behind these bogus schemes view everyone as potentially easy prey. The IRS urges everyone to be on guard all the time and look out for others in their lives.

"Tax scams tend to rise during tax season or during times of crisis, and scam artists are using the pandemic to try stealing money and information from honest taxpayers," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "The IRS provides the Dirty Dozen list to help raise awareness about common scams that fraudsters use to target people."

Taxpayers are encouraged to review the list in a special section on IRS.gov and be on the lookout for these scams throughout the year. Taxpayers should also remember that they are legally responsible for what is on their tax return even if it is prepared by someone else. Consumers can help protect themselves by choosing a reputable tax preparer.

The IRS urges taxpayers to refrain from engaging potential scammers online or on the phone. The IRS plans to unveil a similar list of enforcement and compliance priorities this year as well.

An upcoming series of press releases will emphasize the illegal schemes and techniques businesses and individuals use to avoid paying their lawful tax liability.

Read more at [IRS.gov/newsroom](https://irs.gov/newsroom). 📄





## Holiday Closings

LVECU will be closed during the following holidays:

**Monday, October 12** – Columbus Day

**Wednesday, November 11** – Veterans Day

**Thursday, November 26** – Thanksgiving Day

**Thursday, December 24** – Christmas Eve (closing at 1 pm)

**Friday, December 25** – Christmas Day

**Thursday, December 31** – New Year's Eve (closing at 1 pm)

**Friday, January 1** – New Year's Day

Remember that e-Tran Online Banking, Bill Pay, Mobile Banking and ART are available when the credit union offices are closed.

## ASD HOMELESS ITEM OF THE MONTH

Please bring donations to either office.

**October:** Toiletries – Deodorant, Powder, Lotion, etc.

**November & December:** Winter Gear – Hats, Gloves, Scarves, etc.

## VISA GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

- They can be used wherever Visa® is accepted
- Cards are issued instantly
- There's only a \$2.50 fee when purchasing a card
- They can be loaded with any amount from \$10 to \$1,000
- Some restrictions apply

For more information, go to: [lvecu.org/gift-cards](http://lvecu.org/gift-cards)



3720 Hamilton Boulevard  
Allentown, PA 18103-4503

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53717

# Financial Literacy Help for Educators!

If you're looking for a way to introduce financial literacy to your students, LVECU can help! We have a financial literacy resource available through our website called Practical Money Skills. You can find Practical Money Skills through our Education menu option. Click on the "Teach" tab, and you will have access to teaching guides and lesson plans for students in grades K-12 and beyond. It's a great resource, it's FREE, and it's just one more benefit of being an LVECU member!

